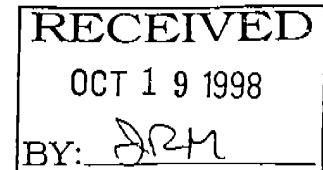




City Hall (707) 725-7600 Fax (707) 725-7610 621 11th Street P.O. Box 545 Fortuna, California 95540

(L) 003961



October 8, 1998

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection  
1416 Ninth Street, Rm. 1516-4A  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Ref: Sustained Yield Plan No. 96-002

Gentlemen:

The Fortuna City Council has reviewed Sustained Yield Plan No. 96-002 (Pacific Lumber Company) and have the following comments in regard to the proposed plan.

The Council feels strongly that it is time to bring closure to the controversy surrounding the Pacific Lumber Company operations on land owned by the company. The adoption of the Sustained Yield Plan (SYP) and accompanying Habitation Conservation Plan (HCP) by the responsible governmental entities is perhaps the final step toward resolving the conflict over the so called "Headwaters Forest" issue. A conflict introduced and fostered by many of the very same parties who now oppose adoption of the SYP and will most likely oppose the adoption of the HCP.

COF-  
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The future economy and economic viability of Fortuna and the surrounding communities is the overriding factor considered by the Council in its review of their SYP, as is the concern for the underlying factor of constitutionally guaranteed property rights and the fact that decisions seem to be based on political agendas rather than field proven science.

COF-  
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In our opinion, implementation of the SYP, which is based on a one hundred and twenty (120) year horizon, would give us a few decades of fairly consistent timber harvesting and therefore some economic stability into the immediate future. Beyond the first few decades we could experience some economic decline as timber harvesting is reduced. The Council feels that knowledge of a future turndown in our timber economy would allow us to plan for, and develop, a broader economic base potential offsetting the decline. The Council also feels that the projected decline in harvesting timber from privately owned lands should give the federal government, i.e., Six Rivers Forest, time to again allow harvesting on publicly owned lands.

Present and projected harvest rate for the Six Rivers Forest does not and will not reflect the intended purpose of the National Forest complex, that of providing a stable lumber supply for U.S. Consumers. Even militant "non shareholders" in the timber wars profess only to be

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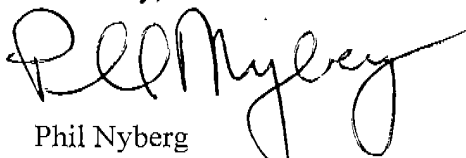
concerned for a "sustained yield" policy. Such a concept would allow harvesting hundreds of millions of board feet of timber per year from the Six Rivers Forest. It would allow a sustainable economy for the North Coast and a reasonably priced, environmentally sound lumber supply for our grandchildren into perpetuity. This is much more responsible than relying on less environmentally sound foreign timber supplies.

In regard to the SYP, the Fortuna City Council urges the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other governmental agencies involved in the approval process to act in a timely manner in their review and response to comments and the approval of this document.

As a final note, the greatest concern the Council has is not with the SYP but with the effect on the future of **ALL timber harvesting**, and possibly rural and urban development, which is contained in the agreement already reached on the government purchase of the so called "Headwaters Forest" and the pending Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). Besides the atrocity of allowing the federal government to play a role in timber harvested on privately owned lands, the excessive stream side buffer zones that have already been agreed to, and proposed in the HCP, have the potential to take thousands of acres of prime privately owned timber out of production as this practice is mandated in the future. Future effects of these excessive stream side buffer zones will most likely create serious impacts on rural and urban development as governmental entities along with the environmental community, to rush to extend stream "protection." A situation which will have even greater adverse economic impacts to all of California.

COF-  
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Sincerely,



Phil Nyberg  
Mayor, City of Fortuna

cc: Senators Feinstein and Boxer  
Congressman Riggs  
Governor Wilson  
State Senator Mike Thompson  
State Assemblywoman Virginia Strom-Martin  
Chair of Humboldt County Board of Supervisors Paul Kirk  
2nd District Supervisor Roger Rodoni  
Mayors of Rio Dell and Ferndale